

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Janel A. Birk

Serial No.: 10/587,099

Filed: December 4, 2008

For: RELEASABLY-SECURABLE  
ONE-PIECE GASTRIC BAND

Examiner: Ryckman, Melissa K.

Group Art Unit: 3773

Confirmation No.: 9529

December 15, 2011

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Final Office Action of September 16, 2011, please amend the above-identified application for patent as follows.